



KŌKUA KALIHI VALLEY COMPREHENSIVE FAMILY SERVICES

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Resolution 13-1 Testimony

Aloha, my name is Jesse Lipman. I am the Food Programs Coordinator for Kokua Kalihi Valley Comprehensive Family Services. One of our organization's goals is to build connections around healthy food and a big part of this effort depends on people's access to fresh and culturally familiar foods. Farmers markets can help fill this need,

About a year ago KKV began organizing a SNAP-EBT incentive program at the Kalihi Valley Farmers Market. We procured grant funding to double SNAP benefits for the purchase of locally grown produce and worked with neighborhood coalitions and partners to spread the word.

The program has been a great success. We've gone from no EBT access at this short 45 minute market to 300, 500, sometimes 700 dollars of SNAP monies and incentives being spent on local produce each week.

Meanwhile, residents are shopping more with their families, meeting neighbors and getting to know local farmers.

The key to this work has been creating a central location in the market for all EBT transactions and coordinating with People's Open Market staff and vendors. By making the market accessible to lower income residents we are increasing healthy foods in the diets of those facing higher levels of health disparities and strengthening the foundation of our community.

Thank you for considering ways to expand SNAP-EBT access throughout O'ahu. I assure you this can be done at low cost to the city and will benefit our health and local farmers. I am also happy to take questions about how we did this, the mechanics of it putting it in place, and resources for the process.

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